

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of remotely connected computers, said method comprising the steps of:
 2. a) associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs);
 3. b) logging associated shorthand links in a registry database;
 4. c) searching said registry database for a shorthand link associated with an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and
 5. d) for each found said shorthand link, fetching said associated URL.
1. 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the step (a) of associating shorthand links comprises the steps of:
 2. i) requesting registration of a URL;
 3. ii) selecting an unused key; and
 4. iii) pairing said selected key with said URL as a shorthand link.
1. 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein each key-URL pair is entered in the registry database.
1. 4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having selected said shorthand link.
1. 5. A method as in claim 3, wherein said fetched associated URL is presented to a requestor, said requestor having provided the paired key of the key-URL pair.

1 6. A method as in claim 5, wherein an error message is returned whenever a
2 requestor provides a key not paired with a URL.

1 7. A method as in claim 5, wherein when a provided key not associated with a URL
2 is identified as corresponding to a key in a key-URL pair, presenting the identified URL
3 to said requestor.

1 8. A method of providing links to remotely located information in a network of
2 remotely connected computers, said method comprising the steps of:
3 a) associating a shorthand link to each of a plurality of files at a remotely
4 connected location;
5 b) indexing shorthand links and associated files;
6 c) searching said index for a shorthand link associated with one of said
7 plurality of files responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and
8 d) for each shorthand link found, fetching the associated indexed file.

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1 9. A method as in claim 9, wherein the step (a) of associating shorthand links
2 comprises the steps of:
3 i) creating a list of files at said remotely connected location; and
4 ii) selecting and associating an unused key with each listed file.

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1 10. A method as in claim 9, wherein said fetched file is presented to a requestor, said
2 requestor having selected said shorthand link.

1 11. A method as in claim 9, wherein said fetched file is presented to a requestor, said
2 requestor having provided the key associated with the fetched file.

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1 12. A method as in claim 11, wherein an error message is returned whenever a
2 requestor provides a key not associated with a file.

1 13. A method as in claim 11, wherein when a key not associated with a file is
2 identified as corresponding to a key associated with a file, providing the file associated
3 with the identified key to said requestor.

1 14. A computer program product for providing links to remotely located information
2 in a network of remotely connected computers, said computer program product
3 comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon,
4 said computer readable program code comprising:
5 computer readable program code means for associating a shorthand link to each of
6 a plurality of uniform resource locators (URLs);
7 computer readable program code means for registering associated shorthand links
8 in a database;
9 computer readable program code means for searching said database for a
10 shorthand link associated an URL responsive to selection of said shorthand link; and
11 computer readable program code means for fetching any found said associated
12 URL.

1 15. A computer program product as in claim 14, wherein the computer readable
2 program code means for associating shorthand links comprises:
3 computer readable program code means for requesting registration of a URL;
4 computer readable program code means for selecting an unused key; and
5 computer readable program code means for pairing said selected key with said
6 URL as a shorthand link.

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1 16. A computer program product as in claim 15 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for maintaining said database of
3 registered key-URL pairs.

1 17. A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor
3 responsive to said requestor selecting an associated shorthand link.

1 18. A computer program product as in claim 16 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL to a requestor
3 responsive to said requestor providing a corresponding paired key.

1 19. A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 a paired key; and
4 computer readable program code means for indicating an error whenever said
5 provided key is determined not to be a paired key.

1 20. A computer program product as in claim 18 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 a paired key;
4 computer readable program code means for determining whether said provided
5 key corresponds to a paired key whenever said provided key is determined not to be a
6 paired key; and
7 computer readable program code means for presenting an URL paired with said
8 corresponding identified key.

1 21. A computer program product for providing links to remotely located information
2 in a network of remotely connected computers, said computer program product
3 comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon,
4 said computer readable program code comprising:

5 computer readable program code means for associating a shorthand link with each
6 of a plurality of files at a remotely connected location;

7 computer readable program code means for indexing shorthand links and
8 associated files;

9 computer readable program code means for searching said index for a shorthand
10 link associated with one of said plurality of files responsive to selection of said link; and

11 computer readable program code means for fetching an associated indexed file for
12 each found said shorthand link.

1 22. A computer program product as in claim 21, wherein the computer readable
2 program code means for associating shorthand links comprises:

3 computer readable program code means for creating a list of files at said remotely
4 connected location; and

5 computer readable program code means for selecting and associating an unused
6 key with each listed file.

1 23. A computer program product as in claim 22, further comprising:

2 computer readable program code means for receiving an indication of selection of
3 a shorthand key.

1 24. A computer program product as in claim 23, wherein an associated key is
2 provided to request said file.

1 25. A computer program product as in claim 24 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 associated with an indexed file; and
4 computer readable program code means for indicating an error whenever a
5 provided key is determined not to be associated with an indexed file.

1 26. A computer program product as in claim 24 further comprising:
2 computer readable program code means for determining whether a provided key is
3 associated with an indexed file;
4 computer readable program code means for determining whether said provided
5 key corresponds to a key associated with an indexed file whenever said provided key is
6 determined not to be associated with an indexed file; and
7 computer readable program code means for presenting the indexed file associated
8 with said corresponding identified key.

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